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African leaders at the AU's new headquarters building in Addis Ababa, in Ethiopia

AFRICAN UNION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

A golden **jubilee** ceremony was held in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, on 25th May. The event was organised to celebrate the African Union's 50th anniversary. The leaders of nearly all countries that make up the African continent attended the celebrations.

Today the African Union (AU) has 54 member countries. It dates back to 25th May 1963. Then the leaders of 32 independent countries in Africa met in Addis Ababa for the first time. They formed a new group called the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). The day on which their meeting took place, 25th May, was given the name 'African Liberation Day'.

Almost all countries in Africa are former colonies of European nations such as the UK and France. By 1963 around two-thirds of them had become independent states. One of the first things the OAU planned to do was to make sure that all

countries in Africa became independent nations. At that time many, such as Angola, Mozambique and Zimbabwe, had yet to be given independence. Angola and Mozambique were Portuguese colonies. Zimbabwe, which was a colony of the UK, was called Rhodesia.

Not all OAU members agreed with what the organisation should do. Some wanted Africa to be like the USA and become the United States of Africa. Others believed that each member country should be an independent nation.

Soon after it was set up the OAU made a decision on what's known as non-**interference**. This meant its members would not interfere with what was happening in other member countries. Leaders could therefore do what they wanted without being criticised by the OAU.

Many African leaders refused to hold proper democratic elections. This meant

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they could stay in power for many years. Often they were corrupt and dishonest. Many of them became very wealthy while most of the people in their countries lived in poverty. Military coups (pronounced 'coos') and civil wars in Africa were not unusual. A coup is when a military commander uses the army to seize control of a country. Around this time some people even described the OAU as being a 'club for dictators'.

South Africa was not a member of the OAU. It had a 'whites only' government that had a policy called apartheid. Under apartheid rules, the population was separated, or segregated, into racial groups.

In 1990 this began to change. Nelson Mandela was freed after spending 27 years in prison. In 1994 he was elected as South Africa's first black president. The changes in South Africa had an effect on many other African countries. Most people living in Africa no longer wanted to be ruled by dictators. Many African countries began to change.

In 2002 it was decided to replace the OAU with a new organisation called the African Union. As part of the change the old policy of non-interference was dropped. Nowadays the AU promotes democracy in all African countries. Members can be punished or suspended from the organisation. Frequent summits, or meetings, are held in Addis Ababa. During these meetings problems that exist in member countries are discussed.

The AU has two leaders. The organisation's members elect both. One is the AU's chairperson, or chair. The other is the head of the African Union Commission, or Commission chair. The Commission runs the day-to-day management of the AU. The Commission chair is the more powerful of the two. The

AU's chairperson does the job for 12 months whereas the Commission chair is elected for a four-year term.

Currently the AU's chair is Hailemariam Desalegn. He is the prime minister of Ethiopia. Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, who is from South Africa, is head of the Commission. She is the first woman to have been elected as the AU's Commission chair.



Many African countries are now becoming more developed. In these countries important things such as education, healthcare and the economy are all improving. Nine of the world's 15 fastest growing economies are in Africa. Yet a number of African countries are among the poorest in the world. In some such as Somalia, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and the Central African Republic (CAR) fighting between different groups has been going on for many years.

Over the last 20 years the Chinese government has spent large amounts of money in African countries. Africa has many of the natural resources that China needs. These include oil, gold, platinum, copper, and diamonds as well as other precious gems and minerals. All of these are used in Chinese factories.

China has helped a number of nations in Africa to develop their natural resources. It has also built roads, schools, and hospitals in many African countries. Last year the AU's new headquarters building

was opened in Addis Ababa. The government of China paid for all the construction work.

Some people believe that Africa's natural resources should not all be shipped to other countries. They argue that African nations should have their own manufacturing industries. These, they say, would provide jobs and create wealth. For example, more mobile phones are used throughout the African continent than in the whole of Europe and North America. Yet none of the parts inside these phones are made in Africa.

Ms Dlamini-Zuma often talks about 'African solutions for African problems'. She also praises the work done by AU peacekeepers. These soldiers come from several AU member countries. Recently they have been sent to places such as Somalia and Mali to stop armed militant groups from taking control.

A number of world leaders were invited to the jubilee celebrations. They included Ban Ki-moon, the secretary-general, or leader, of the United Nations (UN), Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff and John Kerry, the USA's secretary of state. China's Vice Premier Wang Yang and François Hollande, the president of France, also attended.

In his opening speech Mr Hailemariam, the AU's chairperson, declared that 'Africa was rising'. He said the AU would create a continent that was 'free from poverty and conflict'. Mr Hailemariam also thanked the Chinese government for all the help that it had given to many African countries.

The AU has chosen a theme for its golden jubilee year. It says 2013 will be the year of Pan-Africanism and the African Renaissance. This means all African countries acting as one and the rise of Africa as a global power. ■

STOCKHOLM RIOTS

On the evening of 19th May riots broke out in a part of Stockholm, the capital of Sweden. The following day the trouble stopped. Yet each evening, for the next ten nights, the rioters returned to the streets. Most of those who took part were young men. Many Swedish people were shocked by what was happening. They also found it difficult to understand why these young men had decided to act in this way.

Around ten million people live in Sweden. Over the years the Swedish government has allowed many people from other parts of the world to move to their country. Most of these immigrants have been asylum seekers. These are people who say they would be in danger if they stayed in their own countries. This could be because of their religious or political beliefs. Asylum seekers therefore want to move to where they and their families will not be threatened.

Most of the immigrants who now live in Sweden came from places such as Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, and Somalia. More recently the Swedish government has accepted other asylum seekers from Syria.



Cars set on fire in Stockholm, in Sweden

The riots first began in a suburb of Stockholm called Husby. This is in the north of the city. Around 80% of the people who live in Husby are immigrants. Most of the rioters were teenage boys from immigrant

families. Many of these young men were born in Sweden after their parents arrived over 15 years ago.

On the first night of the riots cars were set on fire and shops damaged. When the police arrived the rioters, who were wearing masks, threw stones at them. Yet the police did not arrest anyone. The next night the same thing happened, but this time more young men joined in.

Some people say a previous incident in Husby caused the riots. The police had shot and killed a man in his apartment. The police claimed he had been armed with a large knife. Yet others say the man was holding the knife to protect his wife from a street gang, which had been threatening her.

The night-time rioting then spread to other parts of the city. The police had trouble keeping control. Extra police officers were sent to Stockholm from other towns and cities. Fredrik Reinfeldt, Sweden's prime minister, said hooligans were to blame for the violence.

The prime minister asked parents to walk the streets at night in Husby to try to stop the rioters. In some parts of Stockholm local residents formed groups to protect their areas, or neighbourhoods, from the troublemakers. On 24th May more riots broke out in several other Swedish cities.

The trouble seemed to stop after ten days. During the riots over 100 people were arrested. At least 150 cars were set on fire and many buildings damaged.

Some people insist that the incident in Husby, when the man was shot and killed by the police, was the cause of the riots. Yet others say this was just an excuse. They claim that many of the young men from immigrant families do not do well at school and their parents are unable

to control them. Drugs also seem to be a problem. Some of the young men complain that the police treat them unfairly and it is difficult for them to find jobs. ■

EVEREST RECORD

On 23rd May a group of climbers reached the top of Mount Everest. Among them was Yuichiro Miura from Japan. At 80 years of age he is the oldest man ever to climb the mountain. Mr Miura has now climbed Mount Everest three times. The second time he reached the summit he was 75 years old.



Mount Everest

The height of Mount Everest is 8,848 metres (29,029 feet). It is the highest mountain in the world. Mount Everest is on the border between Nepal and Tibet, a region of China. The first people to get to its summit were Edmund Hillary, a New Zealander, and Sherpa Tenzing, from Nepal. They reached the top on 29th May 1953. So 29th May this year was the 60th anniversary of the first ascent. Since 1953 nearly 4,500 people have got to the top.

Nowadays many people try to climb Mount Everest each year. Expert climbers organise group expeditions to the mountain. Each person must have a permit from the Nepalese government. The expedition companies apply for these. Nepal makes a lot of money by selling

NewsCAST

LIFE-SIZED LEGOCRAFT — The world's largest Lego model was displayed, in New York City, in the USA, on 25th May. The model, which weighs 20 tonnes, has been made in the shape of a spacecraft. The life-sized 'toy' spaceship contains over five million plastic Lego bricks. It was made in the Czech Republic and took 32 people four months to put together. The Lego spacecraft, which is around 13 metres (42.6 feet) long, is similar to one used in some of the Star Wars films. It has sound effects, a cockpit in which people can have their photograph taken and engines that light up. The following day the model was taken to California where it can now be seen at the Legoland visitor attraction.

these permits. A permit to climb the mountain can cost many thousands of pounds.

As Mount Everest is so high there is very little oxygen in the air near the top. Therefore nearly all climbers now use special oxygen tanks when they are near the summit.

The climbers often employ Sherpas to carry much of their equipment such as tents, food and oxygen tanks. The Sherpa people live close to Mount Everest. This means they are used to living at high altitude where there is less oxygen in the air.

For ten months of the year bad weather makes it impossible to reach the top of the mountain. Climbing permits are made out for late April and May. At this time the winds at the top of Mount Everest are normally calmer and the weather is clear. This is just before the rainy season begins farther south, in India. After the rainy season starts

heavy snow falls on the mountain and climbing becomes too difficult.

Although many people now reach the summit of Mount Everest it can be dangerous. The weather can change very quickly. Around 220 people have died either on the way up or down.

This year there have been several 'firsts' on Mount Everest. For example, it was the first time that a woman from Saudi Arabia reached the top. Two 21-year-old women from India were the first twins to get to the summit. A man from the UK climbed the mountain for a record-breaking 11th time.

Mr Miura first set the record for the oldest man to stand on the top of Mount Everest in 2003 when he was 70. Min Bahadur Sherchan, a 76-year-old climber from Nepal, broke his record in 2008. This year Mr Sherchan, who is now 81, tried to climb the mountain again. Yet, this time, he was unable to reach the top.

The oldest woman to climb Mount Everest is also from Japan. Tamae Watanabe stood on the summit last year when she was 73. She broke her own record, which she had set ten years previously. ■

CHILE VOLCANO ALERT

On 27th May government officials from Chile and Argentina issued a red alert. This was because scientists were warning that the Copahue volcano was about to erupt. This volcano is on the border between the two countries.

Around 2,200 people who live within 25 kilometres (15 miles) of the volcano have been ordered to leave their homes. Scientists, who have been monitoring the Copahue volcano, have recently recorded

thousands of earth tremors. The increasing number of these is a sign, or indication, that a volcano might be about to erupt.

The Copahue volcano is nearly 3,000 metres (10,000 feet) high. It has a number of volcanic craters. These are in a line, which is about two kilometres (1.2 miles) long. One of the craters contains a large acidic lake. Over the past 100 years the volcano has erupted several times. Its last big eruption was 13 years ago.

Chile is a long narrow country. Its eastern boarder runs along the Andes Mountains. This mountain range is the world's longest chain of volcanoes. There are about 3,000 volcanoes in Chile. Of these around 500 are active.



Copahue volcano

The outer layer of the Earth is known as the 'crust'. The Earth's crust is made up of huge sections, called tectonic plates. These 'plates' move about slowly on the magma, or hot liquid rock, that is deep below the surface.

Volcanoes are often found close to where tectonic plates are being pulled apart or pushed together. This movement can create gaps in the Earth's crust, which allows magma to come to the surface.

A number of tectonic plates meet and bump into each other around the edge of the Pacific Ocean. Scientists call this horseshoe-shaped line 'the Ring of Fire'. In the Americas the line runs close to the Pacific coast.

It passes through Canada, the USA, Mexico and the other countries in Central America, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile.

In Chile there is a lot of geothermal energy. This is heat energy from deep inside the Earth. In areas where there is much volcanic activity this energy can be found near the surface. For example, it can appear as steam and hot streams of water. This steam can be used to turn, or power, turbines, which can then generate electricity.

Chile makes a small amount of electricity from geothermal heat. Currently the country is importing large quantities of oil and gas to make most of the electric power it needs. The government wants to change this. It is therefore planning to make more electricity from the country's volcanic activity. Iceland and New Zealand are other places where geothermal heat is used to make electric power.

Last December another red alert was issued when Copahue showed signs of erupting. At that time the volcano sent large amounts of ash and steam high up into the sky. But it did not become a major eruption.

A few months earlier another nearby volcano erupted. This one occurred along a line of volcanoes known as the Puyehue-Cordón Caulle volcanic **complex**. This eruption created a huge ash cloud, which caused the cancellation of hundreds of flights in Chile and Argentina. ■

WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL WOMEN

Since 2004 an American publishing company called Forbes has produced a list of the 100 most powerful women in the world. This year's list was released on 22nd May. For the

third year running Angela Merkel, the chancellor of Germany, came top. This year's list includes women from 26 countries.



Chancellor of Germany, Angela Merkel

Being powerful can mean many different things. Forbes uses certain rules, or **criteria**, to work out who comes where on its list. One is the amount of money for which the person is responsible. This does not have anything to do with how much she is paid. For a politician it is the size of the economy of the country she leads. For a businesswoman it is the value of the company of which she is in charge.

Chancellor Merkel has been at the top of Forbes' list seven times.

The main reason for this is that Germany has the world's fourth-largest economy, after the USA, China and Japan. The highest company boss on the list, at number six, is Sheryl Sandberg. She is the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the Facebook Company. The COO looks after the day-to-day running of a company.

Another rule that Forbes uses is how much **influence** a person has. So if someone, such as a politician, makes many important decisions that affect a country, group of countries, or international organisations, she has a lot of influence.

A number of the highest ranked women on the list, including Chancellor Merkel, are presidents or prime ministers. Number two is Dilma Rousseff. She has been the

president of Brazil since 2010. Park Geun-hye, who has just been elected as the president of South Korea, is at number 11. The prime ministers of Australia and Thailand, Julia Gillard and Yingluck Shinawatra, are in 28th and 31st place.

In third place is Melinda Gates. With her husband, Bill Gates, Mrs Gates runs the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. It gives millions of dollars to projects in developing countries. For example, the foundation pays for medical research to try to find cures for diseases such as HIV/AIDS and malaria.

Michelle Obama is fourth. She is married to Barack Obama, who, as president of the USA, is often described as the most powerful man in the world. As the wife of the American president Michelle Obama is known as 'the First Lady'.



Dilma Rousseff, president of Brazil

Two politicians on the list who are not leaders of their countries are Hillary Clinton and Aung San Suu Kyi. Ms Clinton, who is 5th, is the former secretary of state for the USA. As secretary of state she was one of the USA's most important politicians. Many people expect Ms Clinton to stand in the next presidential election in 2016. If she wins she will become the USA's first woman president. Ms Suu Kyi is in 29th place. As Myanmar's pro-democracy leader she has become well-known throughout the world. (Myanmar is also known as Burma.)

Each year Forbes produces many other lists. These include the world's richest people, the world's best airports, and the company bosses who earn the most money. ■

WORLD'S HAPPIEST COUNTRIES

For the third year in a row Australia has come top of the Better Life Index. Each year this list is compiled, or put together, by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). This organisation, which was set up over 60 years ago, has 34 member countries. Its headquarters are in Paris, the capital of France. OECD members meet to discuss and find solutions to problems that can occur in democratic countries.

The OECD first began to compile its Better Life Index in 2011. It claims that it shows which are 'the world's happiest countries'. There are many tables and charts that show which countries have the most successful economies. The OECD decided to produce a table that was based on other things and not just economic numbers.

The Better Life Index includes 36 nations. All are what's known as developed countries. To make the list the OECD asks questions and collects information on 11 different topics, or categories. All the categories have equal value. This means that any one of them is not more important than the others.

Examples of the categories include housing, health, education, the environment, wages, and jobs. The information collected shows how happy people are, in their own country, when asked about these categories. Housing, for instance, is not

just about people having homes to live in. Instead it covers how many rooms there are and how many people live in each house. Other questions about safety and if it is a good place to bring up a family are also asked. Furthermore the OECD finds out if people think the price of housing is affordable or if they believe it costs too much money.

The 'world's happiest countries'

- | | |
|----------------|--------------------|
| 1. Australia | 6. United States |
| 2. Sweden | 7. Denmark |
| 3. Canada | 8. The Netherlands |
| 4. Norway | 9. Iceland |
| 5. Switzerland | 10. United Kingdom |

The OECD says that one of the main reasons Australia has come top is that its economy has been successful for many years. Recently the economies of many developed countries have had problems. The number of people without jobs has been rising and the wages many people earn have not been increasing.

Australia has a large mining industry. It produces many of the minerals that large numbers of factories in China need. These include iron ore, nickel and bauxite, from which aluminium is made. So China's economic growth over the past 30 years has helped Australia. Over 73% of Australia's 23 million people, between the ages of 15 and 64, have a paid job. This is higher than any of the other countries in the index.

Australians work less hours per year than people in other developed countries. Their health is also good. Life expectancy is 82 years. This is two years higher than the average of the other countries in the list. The OECD says that 84% of Australians

say they are 'happy' most days. This means they have feelings of enjoyment instead of sadness. This is 4% higher than the average.

The index shows that Sweden, Canada and Norway are the 2nd, 3rd and 4th 'happiest countries'. ■

NEW YORK'S NEW BICYCLES

A new bicycle-sharing rental scheme began in New York City, in the USA, on 27th May. The scheme is based on similar ones in the cities of London, the capital of the UK, Montréal, in Canada, and Paris, France's capital city.

Michael Bloomberg, the mayor of New York, has introduced the new bicycle-sharing scheme. Like many large cities New York suffers from traffic jams and crowded underground trains. Mr Bloomberg hopes that his new scheme will encourage more people to cycle around the city. He says it will improve people's health, reduce traffic, and help to lower air pollution. The mayor has already arranged to have parts of the roads in some areas of the city marked as cycle lanes.



Bicycle docking station, in New York City

Citibank, a large international bank that has its headquarters in New York, has sponsored the new scheme. The bicycles have been named citibikes.

Around six thousand bikes have been provided. They are of a similar

design to those used in London and Montréal. The bicycles have thick tyres. They are made in a way that means they are unlikely to go flat.

The bikes can be picked up and dropped off in the neighbourhoods, or boroughs, of Manhattan and Brooklyn. The places where the bikes are collected and returned to are called docking stations. Currently there are about 330 docking stations in Manhattan and Brooklyn. There are plans to expand the scheme to include several other boroughs. If this happens there will be about 10,000 bicycles and 600 docking stations.

People who want to use the bikes register for a key. Once the key has been activated they are able to unlock a bicycle from a docking station. After completing their journey they have to return it to any one of the docking stations. These automatically lock the bicycles. So far over 14,000 people have registered for keys.

The annual fee is US\$95.00 (£63.00). Those who pay this fee can use the bicycles as often as they want for up to 45 minutes each time. If they use them for longer there is an extra charge. From the beginning of June it will also be possible to pay to use the bikes for either one day or one week. These riders will buy a code, which has to be typed into a keypad to unlock a bicycle.

The bike-share scheme began on Memorial Day in the USA. This is a national holiday, which takes place on the last Monday of May each year. Memorial Day is when Americans remember those who have died while serving in their country's army, navy and air force. As the scheme began on a national holiday it meant that there was less traffic in the city.

Not everyone is happy with the bike-share scheme. Some have

complained that the docking stations take up too much space.

The bicycle-sharing scheme in Paris, called Vélib (short for vélo libre or vélo liberté - meaning free bicycle or bicycle freedom), began in 2007. Bixi, the bike rental scheme in Montréal, started in 2009. The one in London, which began two years ago, has been nicknamed 'Boris's bikes'. The name comes from Boris Johnson, who is the mayor of London. Some people in New York have already started to call their city's new bike-share scheme 'Mike's bikes'. ■

DEADLY TORNADO

On 20th May a powerful tornado struck the city of Moore, in the state of Oklahoma, in the USA. It destroyed or badly damaged at least 2,400 homes, as well as two schools and a hospital. Twenty-four people were killed and over 350 injured. Of those who died ten were children.

A tornado is a fast-spinning column of air connecting a cloud to the ground. Tornadoes usually move over the ground for a few kilometres before suddenly disappearing.

Large tornadoes can be very destructive. The fast-spinning columns often destroy everything in their path. Tornadoes can 'suck up' cars, houses, trees, animals and people. After being spun round things sucked up by tornadoes can be dropped far away from where they were picked up. In the USA large tornadoes are often called twisters.

The tornado that struck Moore stayed on the ground for about 50 minutes. It travelled for a distance of 27 kilometres (17 miles). The tornado's path of destruction was about 2.1 kilometres (1.3 miles) wide.

The twister's winds spun at about 340 kilometres (210 miles) per hour. It was one of the biggest and most destructive tornadoes ever recorded. This was not the first time that Moore had been struck by a tornado. A similar one hit the city in 1999.

Tornadoes are not unusual in Oklahoma. The state is in the middle of what's known as 'Tornado Alley'. This large part of the USA is between the Rocky Mountains in the west and the Appalachian Mountains in the east. Each year an average of 70 people are killed by twisters in Tornado Alley.



No one fully understands what causes tornadoes. It is also very difficult to predict where they might appear. However, there are more tornadoes in the central part of the USA than anywhere else in the world. Here they seem to suddenly form when cool dry air pushing down from the north meets a mass of warm moist air coming up from the south.

In Tornado Alley many buildings are made in a certain way. They are designed so that roofs, walls and foundations are more securely fixed together. Many, but not all, have storm shelters or safe rooms. The shelters are like underground rooms in which people can hide. Safe rooms are often in the middle of the house. They have extra strong walls. So even if the rest of the house is destroyed those inside these rooms should be safe.

Weather stations provide tornado alerts and towns have tornado [sirens](#). Twisters can appear with little warning. So, after a siren goes off, people may only have about 10 to 15 minutes to get to a safe place.



Tornado

The two schools and the hospital in Moore, which were badly damaged, did not have shelters or safe rooms. After the tornado the mayor of the city said that a new law would be passed. This law would mean that all houses in Moore would have to have a storm shelter or safe room.

On 26th May Barack Obama, the president of the USA, visited Moore. He met with many of the people whose homes had been destroyed. The president said that the government would help to pay for the rebuilding work. ■

LENIN'S MAUSOLEUM REOPENS

Lenin's [mausoleum](#), in Moscow, the capital of Russia, has recently reopened after being closed for eight months for repairs. Inside, in a glass coffin, is the preserved body of Vladimir Lenin (1870 – 1924). Lenin was Russia's first communist leader.

The mausoleum is next to the Kremlin in Red Square, in the centre of the city. The Kremlin is a fortified building that was originally used by the Russian royal family. Today it is the official home and

offices of the Russian president. Many people who travel to Moscow visit Lenin's mausoleum.

Vladimir Lenin became the first communist leader of Russia soon after the Russian Revolution in 1917. Before the revolution the head of the country's royal family, the Tsar, ruled Russia.

During the First World War (1914 – 1918) Russia fought alongside France and the UK against Germany and the Austro-Hungarian Empire. At this time there were many large demonstrations against the Tsar. In 1917, the protest leaders imprisoned the Tsar and other members of his family in one of their royal palaces. Soon afterwards the Tsar agreed to resign, or abdicate.



Lenin's mausoleum, in Moscow

For many years Lenin had been complaining about how the Tsar ruled Russia. He was arrested for this, so it wasn't safe for him to stay in Russia. Lenin moved to Switzerland. There, he carried on writing articles that said Russia should have a new form of government called communism.

Soon after the Tsar abdicated, Lenin returned to Russia. Large cheering crowds met him. Six months later, Lenin and his followers seized control of the country and turned it into a communist state – later to be called the Soviet Union.

The Communist Party continued to run the Soviet Union until 1991. By that time it had expanded to

include many countries in Eastern Europe. After Lenin died, Joseph Stalin (1878 – 1953) took over.

In 1991 the Soviet Union collapsed and broke up. Nearly all of the countries in Europe and Asia that used to be part of it have become independent nations. Russia is now a democratic country that elects its own leaders.

Before his death Lenin said that he wished to be buried next to his mother in a [cemetery](#) in St Petersburg, Russia's second largest city. Yet soon after he died his body was put inside a wooden tomb in Red Square. Hundreds of thousands of Russians queued to visit it. Later, after scientists said that it would be possible to preserve Lenin's body for much longer, a stone mausoleum was built. Apart from a short period during the Second World War (1939 – 1945) his body has been displayed since he died in 1924.

After Stalin died his body was also preserved. It was placed next to Lenin's. Yet in 1961 Stalin's body was removed from the mausoleum and buried. Around that time the leaders who came after Stalin accused him of being responsible for the deaths of tens of thousands of people. The names of towns and cities that had been re-named after Stalin were changed.

Since 1991, after the break up of the Soviet Union, many people have expected the mausoleum to close. This is because the Russian communist state, which Lenin believed in, no longer exists. Many say that Lenin should now be buried next to his mother, as he wished.

For the last eight months the mausoleum has been covered by a large white dome, or tent. The repairs included fixing a leaking roof and rebuilding some of the [foundations](#). ■

ENGLISH IN FRANCE

For several weeks many politicians in France have been arguing about lessons being taught in English at some universities. A previous law says that all lessons in schools and universities have to be in French. On 23rd May a vote was held in the country's parliament. The result of the vote means that some classes can now be taught in English.

For many years some people in France have worried that French is becoming a less important international language. Today French is the eighth most spoken language in the world.

It is difficult to estimate how many people in the world speak French. It's thought to be about 220 million. The most spoken language is Mandarin Chinese, which is used by 1,026 million people. Second is

English with 765 million and third Spanish with 466 million speakers.

French is still the official language in 31 different countries. A number of them in North Africa were once French colonies. But in these countries French has become mixed with words from local languages as well as English. In the province of Québec, in Canada, French is still the official language. Yet people in Québec who speak French often use many English words and phrases.

Some French people are unhappy about the increasing number of English (or American) words used in their language. They call this 'Franglais' - a mixture of *français* (meaning French) and *anglais* (meaning English). Sometimes French people use Franglais because there is no simple French expression for an English word. 'Le week-end' is an example. Other words, such as 'email', 'spam' and 'DVD', are used because they come from new technology.

Nowadays younger people seem to be using more Franglais. What's more some of the words they use are not used in English. One example is 'fooding'. This is a combination of 'food' and 'feeling'.

In France there is an organisation called the High Council for the French Language. When new English words are used, it suggests French alternatives. But it sometimes takes a long time to decide which alternative French word should be used. This means many people ignore its suggestions and carry on using the Franglais words.

The French education minister began the argument about having some lessons in English at universities. She said this should be allowed to attract more foreign students to study in France. The minister also said that at some of the country's top

universities English was already being used for some lessons.

Some people in France are worried that French will become less and less popular. Several have argued that it is in danger of becoming a 'dead language'. Many French people fear that using more English words will have a damaging effect on their country's culture.



One of France's newspapers, called *Liberation*, agreed with those who think that not all university lessons need to be in French. On the day of the vote in parliament its front page was all in English. In big letters was the wording 'Teaching in English LET's DO IT'. ■

NEWSCAST

STINKING FLOWER — Large numbers of people recently queued to see a very rare flower at a visitor attraction in the UK. The plant, known as a 'corpse flower', is unusual. These plants come from the rainforests of Indonesia. They do not flower annually. Instead they may bloom only once every 20 years. Yet just before the plant flowers it starts to grow at around ten centimetres (four inches) a day. When in bloom the plant can be over 2.4 metres (eight feet) tall. Then, after just two days, the tall flower wilts and dies. When it blooms the plant has a horrible smell. Many say it is like rotting flesh, which explains why it is known as the corpse flower.



ANTI-GRAFFITI DRONES

Officials working for Deutsche Bahn, the German national railway company, have made an unusual announcement. They said the company was thinking of making use of drones, or unmanned small aircraft. These, they explained, would be designed to stop people from unlawfully drawing or writing messages on their buildings and trains.

Drones can be controlled remotely. Some countries, such as the USA, use remote-controlled drones to carry out attacks on their enemies. However, the drones Deutsche Bahn plan to use will not be fitted with any weapons. Instead they will have cameras that will be able to film in the dark.

Drawings and messages illegally written on walls and other public places are known as graffiti. The people that do this are sometimes called graffiti artists. Often they use tins of different coloured spray paint. This means they can quickly finish the drawings or messages before running away.

Graffiti artists cause Deutsche Bahn many problems. The company says that removing graffiti from its train carriages costs around €7.6 million (£6.5 million) each year.



Graffiti on German train carriage

Overnight most of the company's trains are kept in depots in many of the bigger cities. These are large areas. The depots are therefore difficult to guard during the night-time hours, which is when graffiti artists strike. In recent years many of the company's train carriages have been covered in brightly coloured graffiti.

Even though the drones are small they are expected to cost about €60,000 (£51,400) each. They will be able to fly silently at a height of around 150 metres (492 feet). The drones will not stop the graffiti artists. Yet, using special cameras, they will be able to film them. The police should then be able to identify and arrest anyone who is filmed spraying graffiti on train carriages or walls.

Some people expect there will be complaints about the railway company's plans. This is because there are strict rules in Germany about secretly watching or filming what

people are doing. These are known as anti-surveillance laws.

The Deutsche Bahn officials said that they now plan to spend some time testing the drones. They also insisted that the unmanned aircraft would only be flown over the company's own train depots and not above any nearby houses or other buildings. ■

CHINA AND INDIA

The Chinese Premier, Li Keqiang, arrived in New Delhi, the capital of India, on 19th May. During his three day visit he held talks with Dr Manmohan Singh, the Indian prime minister. He also met several of the country's senior politicians.

Mr Li was officially appointed as China's new premier (or prime minister) last March. He is the second most important politician in China after Xi Jinping, the country's president. Mr Xi took over as China's president at the same time that Mr Li was appointed. Mr Li's trip to India was his first visit to another country since becoming the Chinese premier.

India and China are the world's two largest developing countries. They also have the biggest populations in the world. Both are home to over one billion people. This means that roughly 40% of all the people in the world live in these two countries.

Both countries have economies that have grown very quickly in recent years. China's economy is based on manufacturing, or making things in factories. Many of these factory-made items are exported or sold to other countries. India is better known for its software and information technology (IT) service companies. Many of these Indian businesses provide IT services for

large companies in other countries such as the USA and the UK.

For many years China and India have argued about where the border between them should be. This border is high in the Himalayan Mountains where few people live. In 1962 fighting broke out between the two countries in the border area. It lasted for about one month. More recently there have been several other border disputes. The latest one was only a few weeks ago. The Indian government complained that some Chinese soldiers had moved too close to the border. After a few days they withdrew.



China's premier and India's prime minister

Dr Singh and Mr Li discussed how trade could be improved. Currently there is a trade imbalance between the two countries. India buys more from China than China buys from India. Mr Li said that his country would try to make sure that the imbalance, or trade deficit, was reduced.

Mr Li declared that he wanted his country and India to work more closely with each other in the future. He said this was the main reason he had chosen India for his first overseas visit. During his trip the Chinese premier also travelled to the city of Mumbai where he spoke with the leaders of some of India's largest companies.

Before returning to China Mr Li also visited Pakistan, Switzerland and Germany. ■

MINOAN CIVILISATION

The ancient Minoan civilisation was based on the Mediterranean island of Crete. For many years scientists have suspected that the Minoan people originally came from Egypt, North Africa or the Middle East. However, recent DNA studies have shown that this is unlikely. The studies suggest that the Minoan's ancestors probably arrived on the island around 9,000 years ago. Furthermore they were more closely related to the people who lived in Europe at that time.

The Minoans were Europe's first advanced civilisation. It began around 2,700 BCE and lasted for about 1,200 years. In 1900 Arthur Evans (1851 – 1941), an archaeologist from the UK, discovered the remains of an ancient palace. The ruins are not far from Heraklion, the

largest city on Crete, which is part of Greece. Today the palace and surrounding buildings are known as Knossos. This site is often described as the oldest city in Europe.



Ruins of Minoan palace at Knossos

At that time Evans was surprised to find evidence of such an advanced civilisation on Crete. He called them Minoans. The name came from an Ancient Greek legend, or myth. In the legend Minos was the king of Crete. Every nine years the people in Greece had to choose seven boys and seven girls. They were then sent to Crete. (Some versions of the legend say that the children had to be sent every year.) Soon after they arrived the boys and girls were devoured, or eaten, by the Minotaur.

The Minotaur was a type of monster. It was described as being half bull and half man. The monster lived in an underground labyrinth. This is a place where there are many paths and passages and it is easy to get lost. Eventually, a Greek hero, called Theseus, killed the Minotaur. He unravelled a ball of string as he entered the labyrinth. This meant he could follow the string to find his way out.

The Minoans had their own written language. Evans believed that the Minoans had originally come from Egypt. This was because some of their tombs and art were similar to those from Ancient Egypt.

No one knows why the Minoan civilisation declined or disappeared.

One possibility is a volcanic explosion. This happened about 3,500 years ago. The huge explosion destroyed a Mediterranean island that was known as Thera (now called Santorini). The eruption at Thera was one of the largest in recorded history. Today circular steep cliffs surround a central bay where the centre of the island used to be.

The eruption would have created a huge tsunami, or giant wave. This would have struck the island of Crete and destroyed most of the Minoan buildings.

The scientists took some DNA samples from 37 bodies, which had been buried in a cave in Crete. They were discovered some time ago. The bodies all date back to the time of the Minoan civilisation. The scientists then compared these samples with DNA taken from other ancient bodies. These ones came from places in North Africa and the Middle East. The results suggest that the Minoans were not related to people from these parts of the world. ■

NEWSCAST

EXAM ERROR — Around 300 students at Cambridge University, in the UK, recently took an important physics exam. Many were puzzled by one of the questions. No matter how hard they tried they were unable to answer it. After 60 minutes one student spoke to the examiner in charge. The student suggested that something must be wrong. The examiner then realised that the question had been typed and then printed incorrectly. The mistake meant it was not possible to find a solution to an equation that the students had to solve. Those who had tried to answer the equation were given an extra 15 minutes to finish the exam. Not everyone was happy. Many said that they had spent far longer than 15 minutes working on the unanswerable question.

WORLD TURTLE DAY

World Turtle Day was on 23rd May. This date was first **designated** as World Turtle Day 13 years ago by an organisation called American Tortoise Rescue (ATR). The organisation says that the purpose of the 'Day' is for people to learn more about turtles. It is also an opportunity to encourage people all around the world to do things that help turtles to breed and survive.

The word turtle can describe any animal with a hard shell and a backbone. Yet in the English language the names turtle, tortoise and terrapin can be confusing. Scientists often call them chelonians. This

scientific name comes from the Ancient Greek word for a tortoise.

One way of explaining the differences is that tortoises spend all their lives on land. They feed on low-growing plants and have legs and feet. Tortoises live in hot dry places. They can use their strong legs to dig holes, or burrows, in the ground.

Turtles spend most of their lives in water. They have webbed feet for swimming. However, they often climb out of the water to sit in the Sun. Sea turtles are different. The males spend all of their time in the ocean. The females crawl up on beaches to lay their eggs. Sea turtles' legs are more like flippers.

Terrapins will spend time on both land and water. Yet they are never far from a river, lake or pond. Terrapins are often found in or near brackish water. This water has more salt in it than freshwater, but less salt than seawater.

Chelonians have lived on the Earth for at least 200 million years. There are around 250 different species. Of these about half are believed to be endangered. In Asia large numbers are killed to make traditional medicines. In many parts of the world turtle meat is a popular type of food. They are also collected and kept as pets.



Leatherback turtle

The largest chelonian is the leatherback turtle. Leatherbacks live in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. Adults can be two metres

(6.6 feet) in length. Leatherback turtles get their name from their unusual shell, which isn't really a shell at all. Unlike other turtles' shells, the leatherback's is a very thick, tough layer of skin, which has small bony plates inside it.



Giant tortoise

The turtle has a large rounded front and its body tapers, or gets narrower, towards the tail. This means it can glide through the water. It also has large flattened front flippers that help it to swim. Leatherback turtles are known to travel long distances to search for the jellyfish on which they feed.

The speckled padloper is the world's smallest tortoise. Adults grow to a length of eight centimetres (3.2 inches). These types of tortoises are only found in South Africa.

Nowadays people in many different countries celebrate World Turtle Day. In some places beaches where sea turtles lay their eggs are cleaned. In others children dress up to look like turtles. The ATR provides lesson plans about turtles and tortoises for use in schools on this day. ■

MOON IMPACT

Scientists working at NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration) have recorded a meteoroid crashing into the surface of the Moon. A meteoroid is a piece of space

debris. It can be as small as a piece of sand or the size of a large boulder.

The impact caused a bright flash of light. It lasted for about one second. The scientists say that anyone who had been looking at the Moon at the time, even without a telescope, would have been able to see it.

NASA scientists have been monitoring the Moon for impacts since 2005. They have been looking for the 'flashes' that occur when a meteoroid hits the Moon's surface. NASA uses a number of large telescopes to do the monitoring. They are trained on, or pointed at, the Moon, and make constant video recordings.

The scientists did not see the impact in real time, or when it actually happened. The bright flash was only noticed when one scientist was reviewing a recording made by one of the telescopes. The recording showed that the impact happened on 17th March.



Arrow showing the 'flash' on the surface of the Moon when the meteoroid hit (NASA)

Since the monitoring telescopes were set up around 300 impacts have been recorded. Yet all have been very small. The one on 17th March was ten times bigger than anything that had been seen before.

The scientists think that the meteoroid, or space rock, that caused the bright flash was about 40 centimetres (one foot) wide. It weighed roughly 40 kilograms (88 pounds). The scientists calculated that when

the rock hit the Moon's surface it must have been travelling at around 90,000 kilometres (56,000 miles) per hour. The crater it made on the surface is probably about 20 metres (65 feet) wide.



Artist's impression of a meteoroid striking the surface of the Moon (NASA)

On the night of 17th March several shooting stars were recorded in the night sky by a space observatory in Canada. Once a meteoroid enters the Earth's atmosphere it's called a meteor. Most meteors burn up as they fall through the atmosphere.

When this happens they look like streaks of light in the night sky. These are called shooting stars. If a meteor reaches the surface of the Earth before it completely burns up it is called a meteorite.

It is therefore possible that the meteoroid that hit the Moon was part of a group that also caused the shooting stars.

Unlike the Earth the Moon is not 'protected' by an atmosphere. This means meteoroids frequently strike it. There is no oxygen on the Moon. So the 'impact flash' was caused by light from molten, or very hot, rock and not an explosion.

The last time that a man stepped on the Moon was in 1972. However, several countries now have plans to return and build a space station on the Moon. This could then be used for future space flights to Mars. So NASA's monitoring of the Moon

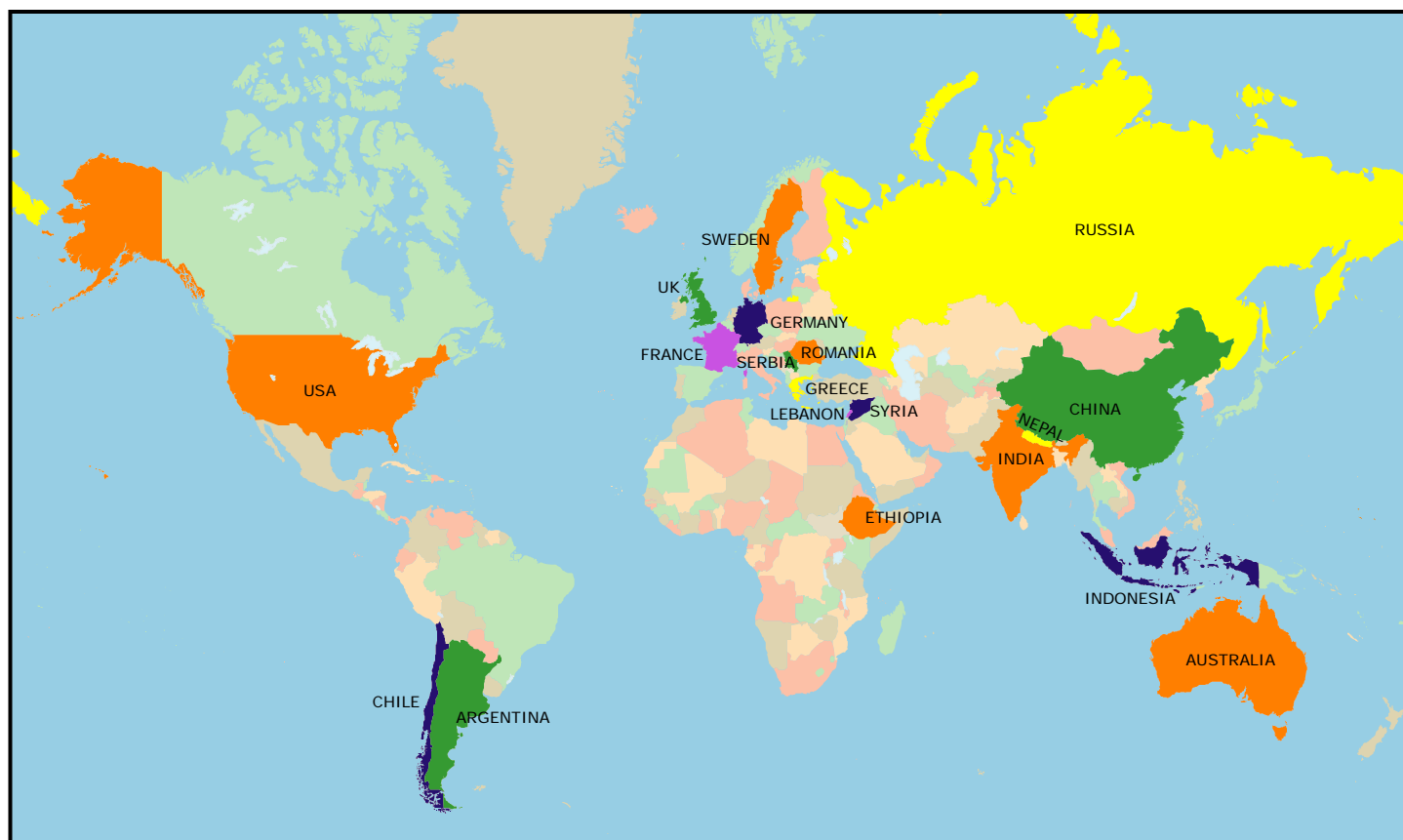
is important. This is because any future space station will need to be built in a place where meteoroid impacts are least likely. ■

LAST KING OF YUGOSLAVIA'S FUNERAL

A special memorial service was held in Serbia, on 26th May. The ceremony took place in a church not far from Belgrade, the country's capital city. After the service the coffins of Peter the Second, the last king of Yugoslavia, his wife, mother and younger brother were all placed in the family tomb, or mausoleum.

Peter the Second (1923 – 1970) left his country in 1941 and never returned. He died and was buried in the USA.

In 1934, while visiting France, Peter's father, Alexander the First,



was assassinated. At that time Peter was 11 years old and at school in the UK. It was agreed that his father's cousin, Prince Paul, would take over until Peter was old enough to become king.

Soon after the start of the Second World War (1939 – 1945) Prince Paul signed an agreement with Germany. Peter and his advisors opposed Nazi Germany. In 1941 Peter was declared to be Yugoslavia's king. With help from the British he returned to the country to take over. Yet within a few days Germany and Italy invaded Yugoslavia. Peter and his government fled the country. Eventually he returned to the UK.



Alexander Karadjordjevic (Crown Prince of Yugoslavia) at the church with the four coffins

At the end of the war Josip Broz Tito (better known as Tito) became Yugoslavia's leader. During the war Tito (1892 – 1980) led a group of partisans that fought against the Germans in Yugoslavia. Tito ran the country as a communist state. He abolished the monarchy. This meant Yugoslavia would no longer have a royal family.

While in the UK Peter met and married Princess Alexandra of Greece and Denmark. They had one son, Alexander Karadjordjevic, who was born in 1945. He was given the title Crown Prince of Yugoslavia. In later life Peter, who suffered from poor health, went to live in the USA.

Queen Maria, Peter's mother stayed in the UK. She died in 1961

and was buried there. His brother, Prince Andrew, who died in 1990, also went to live in the USA. Peter's wife died in 1993. She was buried in Greece.

Soon after Tito's death several wars broke out in Yugoslavia. Today what used to be Yugoslavia is now seven separate countries – Slovenia, Croatia, Bosnia, Serbia, Montenegro, Macedonia and Kosovo. Belgrade, the former capital of Yugoslavia, is now the capital city of Serbia.

Since the break up of Yugoslavia Alexander Karadjordjevic has returned to live in Belgrade. He believes that Serbia should now become a constitutional monarchy. This would mean that he would become king and the elected parliament would continue to run the country.



Peter the Second in the 1940s

Alexander helped the government with their arrangements to bring the coffins of his relatives back to Serbia. Tomislav Nikolic, the president of Serbia, and the country's prime minister, Ivica Dacic, both attended the funeral. The tomb in which the coffins were placed is where nearly all former members of Yugoslavia's royal family are buried. ■

WILD HORSE CULL

An operation to reduce the number of wild, or feral, horses has just begun in a central part of Australia. It has been arranged by an organisation called the Central Land Council (CLC). However, not everyone agrees with what the CLC is doing. Some have said that the operation should be stopped.

When certain types of wild animals are deliberately killed to reduce their numbers it is known as a cull. This can be necessary to help to protect them. For example, if there are too many of one type of species there may not be enough food or water for all of them. A cull may also be done to protect other types of animals or to stop the spread of certain diseases.

Horses are not native to Australia. When the first Europeans sailed to the country, just over 200 years ago, they took some of their horses with them. Over time the number of horses increased.

In the past some horses escaped and others were set free. Now there are hundreds of thousands of feral horses living in what's known as the Outback. This is a huge area in the central part of Australia where few people live.

Many of these wild horses are a breed, or type, called Walers. These horses were originally sold in a part of Australia called New South Wales. The horses were called New South Walers, which was shortened to Walers.

This breed of horse was popular with farm owners and the army. The Australian army used many Walers, in the Middle East, during the First World War (1914 – 1918). This was because, over time, these horses had adapted to be able to travel very

long distances in hot weather with little water.

Officials from the CLC insist that a cull of around 10,000 wild horses is necessary in a certain part of the Outback. They say the number of other non-native animals, such as feral donkeys and camels, is also a problem in this part of the country. Many of these animals, the officials, say are now suffering from a lack of food and water.

Often the only sources of water in the Outback are waterholes. These are depressions, or dips, in the ground where water can collect. The CLC officials claim that the large numbers of wild horses and other non-native animals are damaging the waterholes. This is affecting native species, as they rely on the same sources of water.



Wild horses in Australia

The CLC says that many animals will soon die of thirst and a lack of food. To show this is true the organisation has released some pictures of wild horses and camels in the Outback that have died or are close to death. The CLC insists that a cull is necessary to reduce the number of non-native species in a humane way. It will also protect the native wildlife.

This part of Australia is very remote. Therefore it is not possible to catch the horses and send them to abattoirs, or places where farm animals are killed for their meat. Instead marksmen in four helicopters

will shoot the horses. The cull is expected to take about four weeks.

Those that disagree with the cull say a sanctuary should be set up for the horses. Once this has been done, they argue, it will be easier to manage their numbers. ■

HEZBOLLAH AND SYRIA

On 25th May Hassan Nasrallah made a speech in Lebanon. He is the leader of a group called Hezbollah. In his speech Mr Nasrallah declared that many of Hezbollah's followers were now fighting in Syria. He said that Hezbollah would support Bashar al-Assad, the Syrian president, in his fight against rebel groups in his country.

The fighting in Syria has been going on for two years. It started when people began to hold street demonstrations. The protesters were angry at Mr al-Assad, his government and the police. Mr al-Assad and his father before him have controlled Syria for over 40 years. The protesters said that the president should step down, or resign. They would then be able to elect their own leaders.

Syrian army soldiers were sent to stop the demonstrations. Some fired on the protesters. Later some Syrian soldiers changed sides and joined the demonstrators. They formed a new group called the Free Syrian Army (FSA). Several other groups also began fighting against the Syrian army. These opposition groups are known as rebels.

So far it's thought that at least 80,000 people have been killed in the war in Syria. Over 1.5 million people have crossed the borders into Turkey, Lebanon, Iraq, and Jordan to get away from the violence. Most

of these people are now living in refugee camps.

Many other countries in the Middle East have declared that they want the rebels to win. They too say that Mr al-Assad should stand down. Yet many people in Syria support the president and his government.

The USA and several European Union (EU) member countries, such as the UK, have also sided with the Syrian opposition groups. Some of the Middle Eastern countries, such as Saudi Arabia and Qatar, have been helping the rebels by giving them money and weapons.



There are two main religious groups in Syria, Sunni and Shia Muslims. The majority of the population is Sunni. The president's family are members of a small religious group called Alawites. This group is connected to the Shia branch of the Islamic faith. Most of the people who oppose Mr al-Assad are Sunni Muslims and the majority who support him are Shia.

Traditionally Syria has received a lot of help from Iran, the main Shia-led country in the Middle East. Iran also helps Hezbollah whose members are also mostly Shia Muslims.

Hezbollah is both a political and military organisation. It has a large number of well-equipped fighters. Its bases are in the southern part of Lebanon. Seven years ago Hezbollah fought a successful 33-day war against Israel. In the past the

organisation is known to have received help and weapons from both Iran and Syria.

For several weeks a fierce battle between the Syrian army and the rebels has been taking place in Qusayr. This town is close to Syria's border with Lebanon. It is also not far from Damascus, the Syrian capital city.

At least one week before Mr Nasrallah's speech rebel commanders claimed that Hezbollah fighters had been taking part in the battle around Qusayr. They insisted that many of them had been killed. Some reports have said that Sunni Muslims from Lebanon are now fighting on the rebel's side in Qusayr.

In his speech Mr Nasrallah insisted that Hezbollah would help Mr al-Assad and his army win the war in Syria. When the violence first began in Syria many people worried that it could spread to other nearby countries. They fear that Mr Nasrallah's announcement means that this is now more likely to happen. ■

YAHOO BUYS TUMBLR

On 20th May the Yahoo internet company announced that it would be buying Tumblr. Marissa Mayer, the boss of Yahoo, said that the price that her company had agreed to pay for the internet blogging service was US\$1.1 billion (£730 million).



People who use Tumblr can set up their own personal webpage, or blog. Then, using what's known as an online dashboard, they can easily upload photographs, web links, text, and videos to their blog. By 'following' others, who use Tumblr, a person is able to receive an alert on

their dashboard. This alert tells them that something new has been posted to these Tumblr blogs. Setting up a Tumblr webpage is free.



Tumblr is based in New York City, in the USA. It was started in 2007. Its boss and founder is David Karp, who is 26 years old. Tumblr has become very popular. The company says that about 108 million people have Tumblr blogs.

Two students set up Yahoo in 1995. It quickly became one of the most popular search engines and internet directories. Later Yahoo added other internet services such as email, news, messaging and video sharing.

In recent years Yahoo has not been so successful. The company has found it difficult to compete with Google, which has become the world's leading internet search engine. Google has also expanded into other businesses such as software for mobile phones. Google makes most of its money by charging companies to advertise on its search website. Yahoo offers a similar service but it is not as popular as Google's.

However, Yahoo is still the largest web portal in the USA. Some people think the company's main problem is that it didn't develop more social networking web services when they first started to become popular. Yahoo is making much less money than it used to. Over the last few years, to save money, it has reduced the number of its employees.

Less than one year ago Yahoo announced that Ms Mayer had been appointed as the company's new boss, or CEO (chief executive officer). At 37 years of age she is one

of the youngest CEOs of the top 500 companies in the USA.

Ms Mayer studied computer science at university. She began working for Google in 1999 when it was a new company. Ms Mayer was Google's first female engineer and the 20th person to join the company.

Yahoo makes most of its money from companies paying to advertise on its web pages and other display adverts. Before Ms Mayer joined the company Yahoo spent a lot of money acquiring, or buying, other internet companies. One example is Flickr, the photo sharing website.

Some people were surprised at the price Yahoo agreed to pay for Tumblr. This is because the blogging site does not make money. In the past Mr Karp said that he did not want Tumblr to show adverts. However, recently he changed his mind.

NewsCAST

RECORD-BREAKING FLAG — On 27th May a group of Romanians broke the record for the world's largest flag. Their huge red, yellow and blue Romanian flag was made out of 70 kilometres (43.5 miles) of thread and weighed five tonnes. It took 200 people several hours to spread the giant flag out on an airfield not far from Bucharest, Romania's capital city. When fully unfolded it covered an area of around 79,300 square meters (853,600 square feet). Because of the wind, those who unfolded the huge flag found it difficult to keep it on the ground. The flag event was shown live on television and the country's prime minister travelled to the airfield to watch. Previously the record for the world's largest flag was held by Lebanon.

But the money Tumblr received from advertising last year was only around US\$13 million (£8.6 million). Experts say that US\$1.1 billion (£730 million) is a very high price to pay for a company that has sales, or revenues, of just US\$13 million (£8.6 million).

Ms Mayer insists that Mr Karp will continue to run Tumblr as a separate company. Yet many people expect that the amount of advertising displayed on Tumblr's dashboard will soon begin to increase. ■

UNUSUAL NEW SPECIES

Each year a science organisation called the International Institute for Species Exploration (IISE) announces a list of ten unusual new species, which were discovered within the previous 12 months. The IISE is based at the Arizona State University, in the USA. On average about 18,000 new species, from all around the world, are registered with the organisation every year.



Lesula monkey (Maurice Emetshu)

The IISE's 2012 list of unusual new species was announced on 22nd May. It includes a monkey with eyes that look human, a tiny frog that is only 7.7 millimetres (0.3 inches) long and a carnivorous, or meat-eating, sponge, which lives on the ocean floor.

When a species is 'discovered' it means scientists called taxonomists

have spent time studying and describing it. They decide which other species it is related to, and note its physical characteristics. They also study how it behaves – for example, what it eats – and the habitat in which it is found.



Paedophryne amanuensis on an American ten-cent coin (Christopher C Austin)

So far around 1.2 million species have been officially registered. Yet some taxonomists estimate that there may be as many as ten million species in the world that are yet to be 'discovered', or classified. New ones are being found all the time. Many, such as different types of bacteria, are very small and can only be seen with a microscope.

The monkey with human-like eyes is called the lesula. It lives in the rainforests of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The monkeys make a very loud noise early in the morning. They were known to local people but had never been classified before. The tiny frog, called *Paedophryne amanuensis*, comes from Papua New Guinea. It is the world's smallest known vertebrate, or creature with a backbone.

The carnivorous sponge was found in the Pacific Ocean, off the coast of the state of California. Called the lyre sponge it has been named after a musical instrument. A lyre was a small harp-like instrument that was used by the Ancient Greeks. The sponge feeds on very tiny marine creatures called plankton.

Other species on this year's list include a black and white snake from Panama, which eats snails, slugs and worms, and a tiny flowering plant called the Lilliputian violet. This plant is only found high in the Andes Mountains in Peru. The above ground part of the violet is only one centimetre (0.4 inches) tall. The plant has been named after the small imaginary people who live on the island of Lilliput in Jonathan Swift's famous book *Gulliver's Travels*.

A committee of top scientists from around the world decide which unusual species are included in each year's list. The scientists include plant experts and zoologists from universities and museums in the UK, New Zealand, the USA, Denmark, France, Spain, and South Africa.

Some of these scientists now worry that many of the world's undiscovered species could become extinct before they are found. They have suggested that thousands of taxonomists be sent to all parts of the world to search for them. If this happened, they say, nearly all of the world's species could be found and registered within the next 50 years. ■

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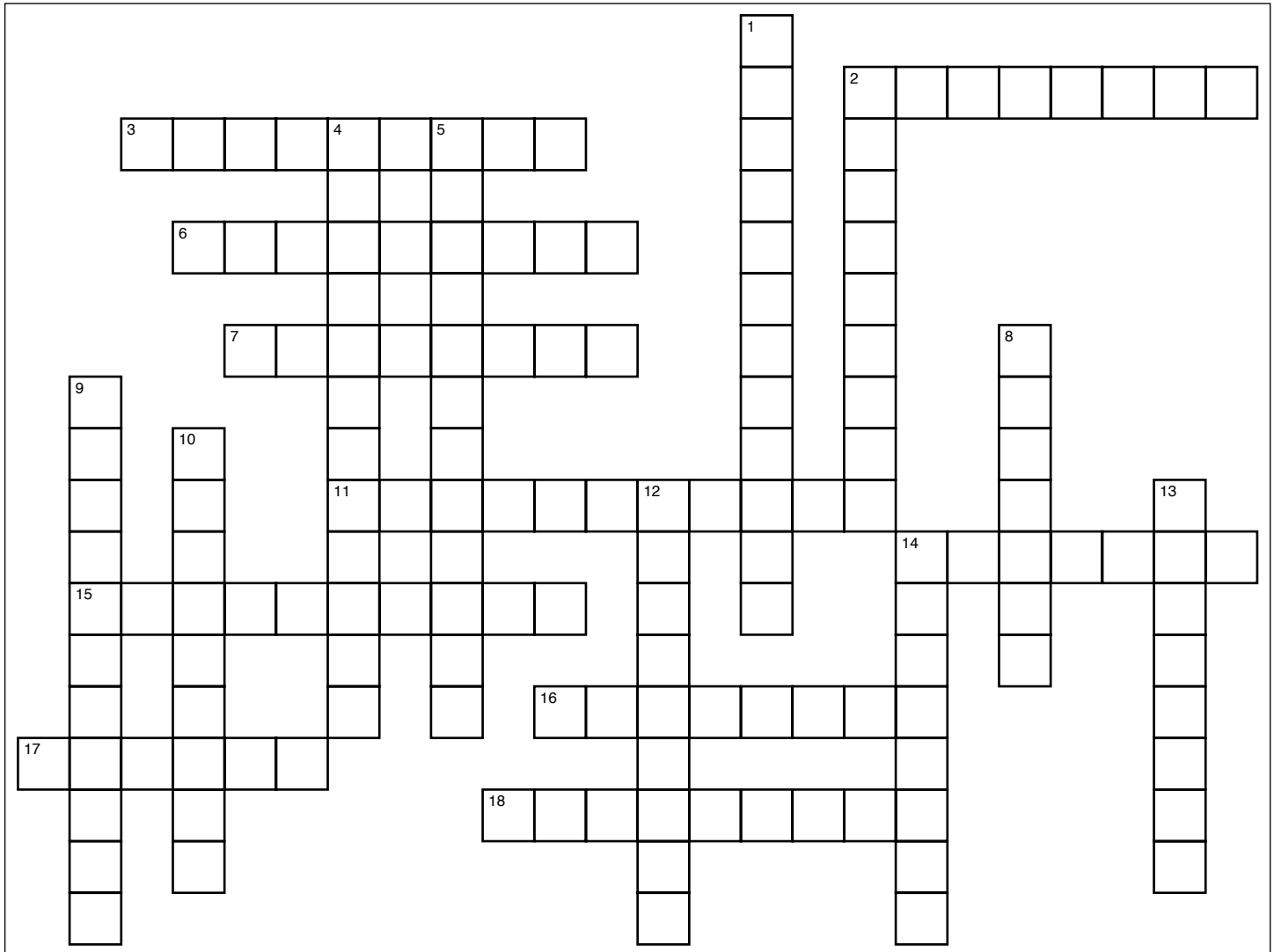
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ISSUE 198

GLOSSARY PUZZLE

INSTRUCTIONS: ① Complete the crossword. The answers are highlighted in orange in the news stories. There are 25 words highlighted and you need 20 of them to complete the crossword. ② Once you have solved the crossword go to the word search on the next page ➡



Across

- 2 Adjective** Describes something that is happening all the time
3 Adjective Describes something that is not real
6 Noun (Plural) Members of armed resistance groups within occupied territory
7 Noun (Plural) People who are skilled in shooting
11 Noun Something that becomes successful or popular again after a time during which people were not interested in it
14 Noun Type of civilization with its associated customs
15 Verb Given an official name, title or purpose
16 Noun Height above sea level
17 Noun (Plural) Devices that produce a loud, often wailing, sound as a signal or warning of danger
18 Noun When two things that should be equal are not

Down

- 1 Noun** The careful watching of a person to check what he or she is doing
2 Noun A small group of people representing a larger organisation
4 Noun Unwanted involvement in the affairs of other countries
5 verb Deliberately killed an important person, especially for political reasons
8 Noun A place, especially a group of buildings, made up of a number of interconnecting parts
9 Noun The parts of a building below ground that support it
10 Noun A large or elaborate tomb
12 Noun A protected area for birds, sea creatures or animals
13 Noun A standard by which you judge or decide something
14 Noun An area of land where people are buried

Issue 198

GLOSSARY PUZZLE *CONTINUED*

E C N A L L I E V R U S S L A P F S
 C C I M B A L A N C E P Y I H M J N
 N R N U U G R M Q C K R Q M L L B O
 E D K A L M G Q O O A S Z M Z M V I
 R B E K S M K M T N K X E A Q W K T
 E R F S R S M G I C D D R R U B R A
 F N X O I I I G S C G D U K R B N D
 R M P C T G A A V Q E Q T S N J V N
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 T P E O I N F A A E R S U E S J I O
 N E A P F H Z N T J R I C N A Q A F
 I X L X A E I U G E R R D G N U D X
 M U E L O S U A M E D E Z L C E I E
 M M H H S G I K X B M N R C T J M L
 X F P A R T I S A N S S O X U J I P
 R D S J U G W Y U C O N S T A N T M
 V S O R I M F M Q O J X P K R A B O
 A I R E T I R C E M E T E R Y U Z C

INSTRUCTIONS: ③ Find 19 of the 20 crossword answers in the word search. Words can go vertically, horizontally, diagonally and back to front. ④ After finding the 19 words write down the 20th (or missing) word under the puzzle.

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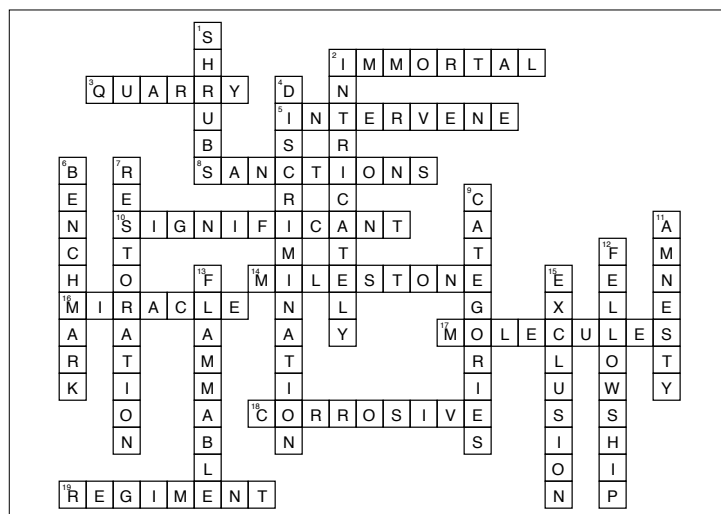


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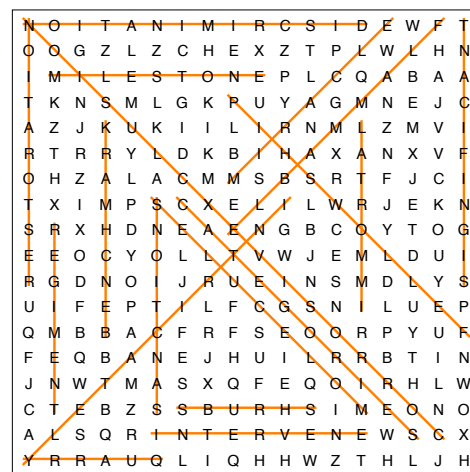
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MISSING WORD ANSWER =



ISSUE 197 ANSWERS



A M N E S T Y